

Counterfeit Money Orders

A number of the current scams being perpetrated on our citizens involve the use of counterfeit cashier's checks or money orders. Small internet retailers and the general public appear to be the favorite targets for the money order counterfeiters.

Such a scam works like this: the “buyer” notifies the seller by email that he wants to purchase the item and that the seller can remove the ad. The “buyer” sends the seller a cashier's check or money order that exceeds the purchase amount, sometimes by thousands of dollars. A scam artist will then tell the seller to deposit the cashier's check in his/her bank account and then send back the overage in a money order, cashier's check or by wire transfer. By the time the victim's financial institution discovers that the check is fraudulent, the victim has already sent the merchandise and the excess funds to the buyer. The fact that most of these counterfeit check are coming from outside the United States (Nigeria, Russia, UK etc.) it is very difficult to recover any of the sold items or locate the party responsible.

The counterfeit money orders are also playing a part in the foreign lottery / sweepstake scams. Victim(s) will receive a letter from a bogus lottery or sweepstake organization telling them that they have won a large sum of money. A counterfeit check will be sent with the letter along with instructions to deposit the check in the victim's account and then send money to a given location to pay any taxes or fees needed to release the winnings. The victims will soon find that they aren't going to be a millionaire and the money order that they deposited in their account has bounced.

Fraudulent US Postal Money Orders have turned up in a number of these fraud cases. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) advises you to look for the following distinguishing features to determine if the money order is authentic::

- ✓ A watermark of Benjamin Franklin, which is visible when held to the light. The image repeats down the left side of the money order.
- ✓ A “USPS” security thread embedded in the paper with the letters facing backward and forward.
- ✓ Warning instructions listed on the back of the money order.
- ✓ Serial numbers printed in red ink that bleeds through to the back side of the paper.
- ✓ Denomination listed in two locations that, if erased, discolor around the denomination amounts.

Authentic U.S. Postal Money Orders are printed on crisp textured paper stock and are in denominations no larger than \$1,000. The maximum amount of an international postal money order is \$700.



RESIDENTIAL SNOW EMERGENCY PARKING BAN UPDATE:

Parking is first banned on the EVEN-NUMBERED side of the street. Once the Mayor terminates that ban, parking will be banned on the ODD-NUMBERED side of the street, and parking is again permitted on the even side. (This procedure is a **change** from previous years, when parking was banned on both sides of the street in most residential areas)

Community Justice Center

"Share Your Voice and Make a Difference!"



Impression Without Expression Leads to...

The Community Justice Center (CJC) is a grass roots non-profit organization contributing to public safety and the protection of Nebraska communities through programming and education. CJC brings together citizens and the criminal justice system to solve neighborhood problems, working to prevent crime and address the aftermath of crime. We offer the following programs and services: ***Crime Victims Message Boards, OASIS Crime Impact/Accountability Workshops and Community Safety Resources:***

Crime Victims and Community Message Boards: A safe, user friendly Internet-based (or write-in) program which allows direct and indirect crime victims a venue in which to voice their feelings regarding how they were affected by crime through our message boards (no names are required). Our message boards focus on the emotional, physical and financial harm crime causes people and communities which are then shared with offenders during our ***Crime Impact & Accountability Workshops*** conducted in Nebraska prisons. CJC message boards are also available to family members of victims, professionals who work with victims and concerned citizens who are indirectly impacted by crime. This services is not only beneficial to crime victims but other individuals who view them — helping them on their road of recovery.

"...it seemed that everything I had to hold in all those years... all the screams... all the kicking and fighting... and the rage...sort of started tumbling out. I write this in the hope that someone will read it, and be motivated to change. Not in anger. Not in shame. But in hope." - Excerpts from victims message boards.

"Increasing Public Safety while Saving Tax Payers Dollars"

OASIS Crime Impact & Accountability Workshops: CJC provides crime impact/accountability workshops to incarcerated offenders and individuals on probation holding them accountable for the harm they caused their victims, indirect victims and the community. During the OASIS program pilot period (2001-2003), **259** incarcerated persons completed the program with **143** inmates being released; **65** received mandatory discharges and **78** were paroled. As of October 2005, only **10** individuals (**7%**) returned to prison.

Individuals released from Nebraska prisons return at a rate of **25%**. Ninety-three percent (**93%**) of inmates who complete the OASIS Crime Impact Workshops stay out of prison, significantly reducing harm to people and communities at the same time saving Nebraska tax payers dollars:

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|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| * Victims pain and suffering | * Booking cost | * Public Defenders cost |
| * Victims lost productivity | * Jail—bed space | * Prosecution cost |
| * Medical and Mental Health cost | * Inmates meals | * Prison cost (\$28,600 a year per-inmate) |
| * Police cost | * Court cost | * State Aid to inmates families |
| * Transportation cost | * Judges | |

"It helped me realize what effects the crime I committed had on my victims as well as the community." "Helped me see my responsibility to my victim and community and help me to grow and prepare myself for my return to society." - Excerpts from prisoners comments.

Community Safety Page: A one-stop public safety resource tool providing citizens information on local, state and national crime prevention efforts addressing the needs of victims and communities. (available February 2006).

Help us continue this important public safety work—"Share Your Voice and Make a Difference!"

Visit our "Crime Victims and Concerned Citizens Message Boards"

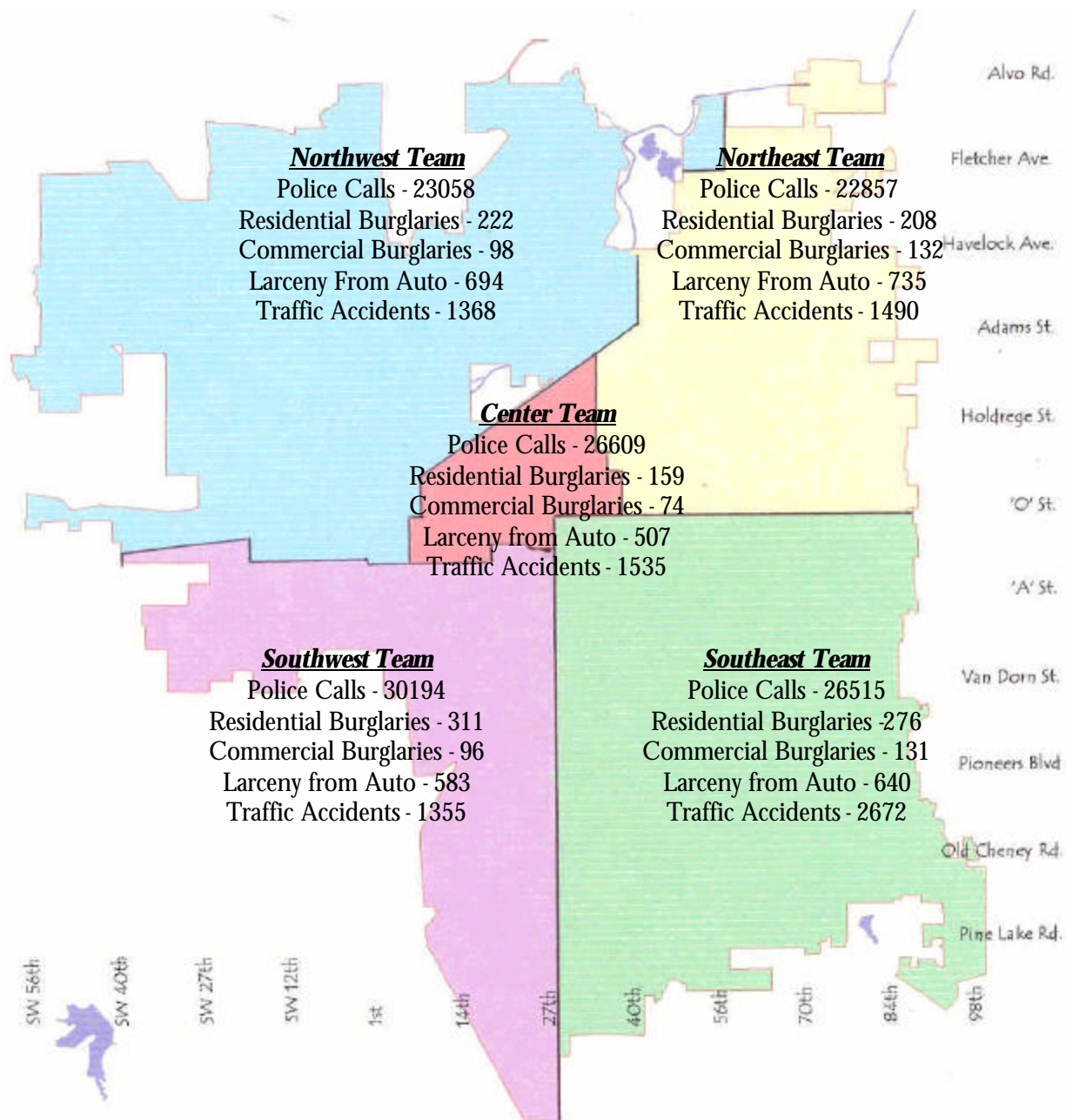
at www.communityjusticecenter.org

Or mail in a Victim Impact Statement (limit one page) to:

Community Justice Center 5645 "O" Street, Suite C, Lincoln, NE 68510

For more information contact James Jones, Executive Director at 429-1050

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-1-2005 and 11-30-2005



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Through November of 2005 there have been 131,768 police calls for service across the city. This is .5% fewer calls for service than in the same time frame in 2004. The total number of residential burglaries for the city so far is 1177, a .8% decrease from the previous year. Larcenies from auto reports are down 9.6% compared to this same time period last year. As of the end of November 3,289 incidents of larceny from auto have been reported.

During the first 11 months of the year there have been 531 commercial burglaries reported. Compared to the same time period in 2004 that leaves us with a 8.4% increase in business break-ins. This is still a high increase in burglaries, but it is down considerably from the February numbers. The police department asks you to continue to pay attention to neighborhood businesses for any unusual people or occurrences and to call the police when you see any suspicious activities.

The "EYE"

Lincoln Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
575 South 10th St.
Lincoln, NE 68508

Return Service Requested

February is Prevent a Litter Month

Having your dog or cat spayed or neutered is one of the best ways to stop pet overpopulation and help end euthanization of healthy adoptable pets. Altering your pet has many benefits. Your pet will be healthier (less apt to get certain types of cancer), calmer, more obedient and affectionate, and more content to stay home. Altering your pet can prevent a bite. Pets spayed or neutered at a young age are usually less aggressive and protective. Unaltered male dogs are three times more likely to bite than neutered dogs. Locally, as well as nationally, neutered and spayed animals have the lowest frequency of bites. There are a number of reasons owners do not spay or neuter their pets. If however, it's the cost that causes the problem, Animal Control can help. Animal Control has a grant program that is available to individuals or families which are at or below the poverty level (185%). The grant program will reimburse your veterinarian for the cost of the neuter/spay surgery. Having pets spayed or neutered at an early age will be more economical for owners and will maximize the benefits for the pets, their families and neighbors. Consult your vet about the age which they prefer to spay or neuter your pet, as well as the cost of the surgery. For more information or an application for the grant program, call ANIMAL CONTROL at 441-7900.



Big Brown Bats

In March, the Lincoln's Animal Control Center will start receiving an increased number of bat calls. The most common is the "Big Brown Bat," which isn't really that big. Big Brown Bats hibernate all winter long in Lincoln in various places, including our homes. Being nocturnal, bats usually "wake up" after the lights have been turned off. Should you find a bat in your house, confine it to one room if possible (shut the door) and call Animal Control at 441-7900. If your pet has had contact with the Bat (more than likely the bat will be deceased when you find it) Animal Control needs to be made aware of it; they will send it to be tested for rabies. Should the bat test positive, pets with current rabies vaccination will need another shot immediately and may be quarantined at home for 30 days, unless symptoms appear. Past due or unvaccinated pets, by law, will have to be placed at a veterinarian clinic for six months. All dogs, cats and ferrets need their first shot at three months of age. Cases of rabies do exist in Lincoln so keep your pet's vaccinations current. Don't take a chance with your pet's or family's welfare.